DXCC OR WAZ

SO. CALIF DX CLUB

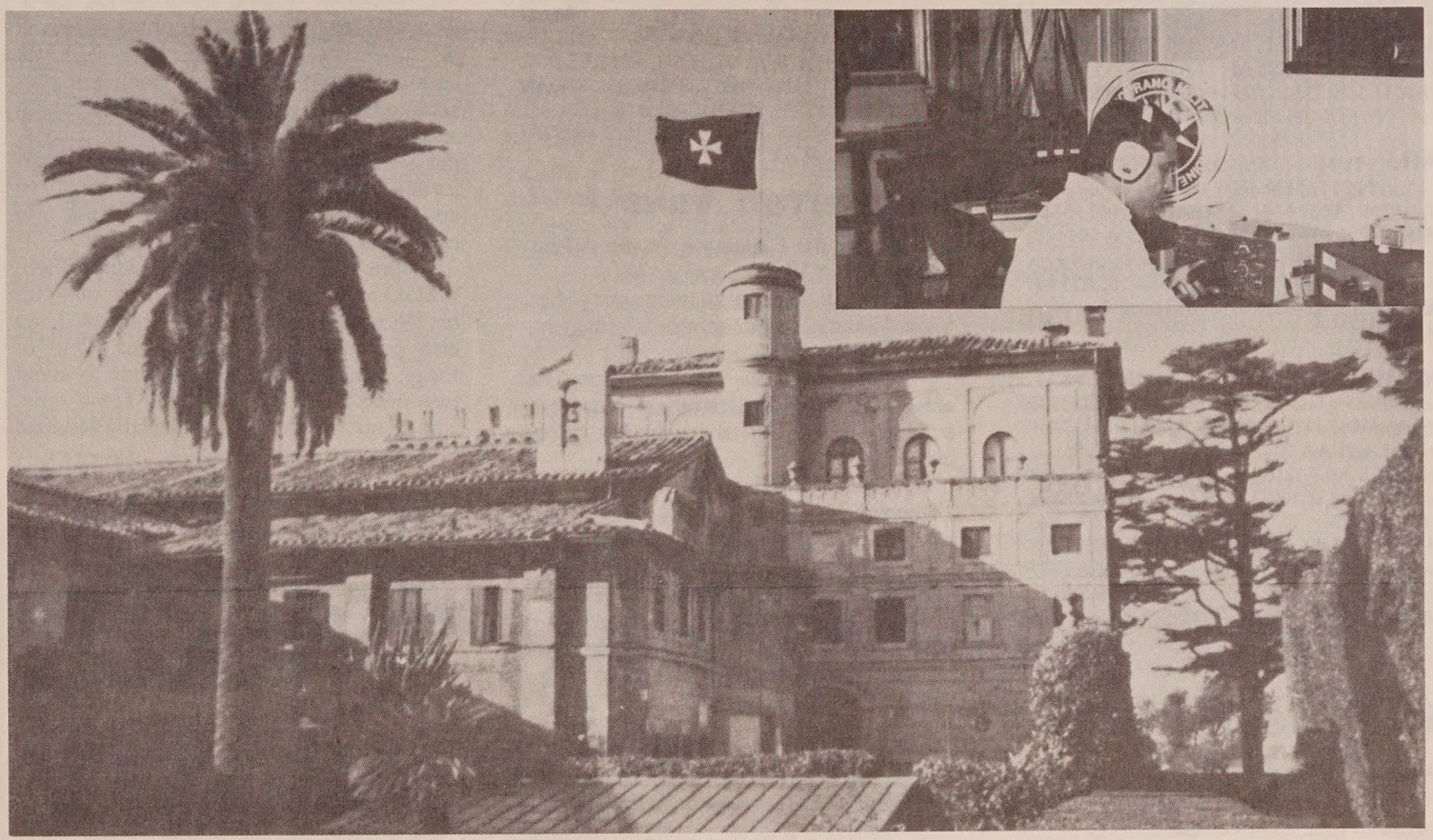
Bulletin

January 1983

President: Jim Stevenson, KM6B □ Vice President: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF
Treasurer: Don Moses, W6UY □ Secretary: Joe Locascio, K5KT
Directors: Tom Hoyne, N6NI; Lee Graves, WB6VTE; Jan Perkins, N6AW;
Bob Cobb, W6CN (membership); Mike Hudgens, W6YQ (bulletin)

Next meeting: Thursday, January 13, 1983, at 7:30 PM in the DWP Cafeteria, 111 Hope Street

New officers will be elected, and we'll vote on whether to continue paying the $100 a month rental on the present repeater site.



The Villa Magistrale on Aventino Hill, Rome, where Tony Privitera, I0IJ, and friends operated 1A0KM last October.

Knights of Malta—once a formidable fighting force

For nearly five centuries, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta was a major naval power in the Mediterranean, operating out of bases on Rhodes and Malta.

Portraits of sea captains and scarlet-uniformed knights line the chilly corridors of the palace on Aventino Hill in Rome. The regal figures on the canvases span most of this millenium. Swords, helmets and medals are meticulously rendered, their prominence connoting a process that goes back to whenever it was that men became territorial creatures—a crisis, a cause, a common bond. It's well documented that the Saracen arrived and departed, as did Napoleon; what is timeless here are the faces of these Knights of Malta. They tell as much as the weaponry and assorted hardware. After the Saracen and Napoleon—when the smoke had cleared and the dust had settled—there remained a bond, a link so powerful between individuals that they became as one. It's uncanny how a wall of paintings can transmit messages of such extraordinary clarity.

So then, regarding the Knights of Malta, what is it exactly? Fourth-oldest religious order in the Roman Catholic Church, it's said to have been founded in 1099 by Italian merchants who built a hospital in Jerusalem. The purpose of the institution was to care for those who made pilgrimages to the Holy Land, an endeavor undertaken by many in those days. The order was monastic, and they referred to themselves as "hospitallers," which they still do. Their concern was with the sick, not fighting. It wasn't until the Muslims began raids on Jerusalem around 1136 that the order became military and joined

Continued on page 2

DX news highlights

The latest on **Heard**, at our deadline: The IDXF group, **VK0HI,** set sail Dec 31; Jim Smith & Co., **VK0JS**, on Jan 3. It's a ten-day voyage, plus. As published elsewhere, a member of the VK0HI group—**VK3DHF**, who is the VK0HI licensee and was VK9ZD on Willis—has said they intend to work *transceive* and use a *list operation* at times. This unfortunate statement has set teeth on edge in the DX community, and if the group actually engages in such operation, many donations still needed are certain to go to the underdog VK0JS effort, reported to be extremely short on capital. In recent weeks, however, Jim Smith's credibility has risen dramatically. All things being equal—if the vessels make it to Heard, if equipment holds up, if operators are not injured, etc—the VK0JS operation looks to be superior with respect to quantity and quality of operators.

Continued on page 3

Activity reports

(Deadline for next month's Activity Reports—Jan 28)

W6RT: **5H3BH** (via SM0DJZ) 14230 1604 on Dec 1; **HA5KKG** 7007 1434 and **5H3BH** 7005 1440 both on Dec 5; **UA0YAN** 7006 0127, **UJ8BQ** 7015 0145, **UA9UAO** 7012 0229, all on Dec 6; **JT0GM** (via UV3GM) 7002 1541 Dec 7; **UF6FAL** 7006 0157, **HG100KZC** (via HA8UB) 7014 0249, both on Dec 8; **XZ9A** (JA8IXM) 7002 1549 Dec 9; **UA9UKL** 7003 0147 and **OZ3PZ** 7070 1431 Dec 11; **UK9AAA** 7008 1422 Dec 15; **Z22JS** 7006 0354 and **UA2FFD** 7011 1404 Dec 16; **UL7TAY** 7004 0145, **HZ1AB** 7005 0257, **A4XIJ** 7006 1456 Dec 17; **UL7QF** 7004 0136, **UK0AMM** (zone 18) 7009 0144, **UI8AEZ** 7006 0155 Dec 19; **UK2FAH** 7011 1353 Dec 22; **4Z4AB** (via K3ITM) 7003 1531 Dec 25; **9N38** (via W1GAY) 7001 0113 Dec 30.

N6RJ: **VP2MM** 7010 at 0832, **JT0GM** on 7011 at 1315, **N6BT/AH0** 7006 1504, all on Nov 25; **UL7PBN** 7003 0139, **UA0ABC** 7003 0141, **UM8NAP** 7007 0145, all long path on Nov 26; **9V1VP** 7009 1203 and **9K2DX** (long path) on Nov 27; **ZD7BW** 7044 0317 on Nov 28; **A71AE** 7006 1423 and **4Z4DX** 7014 1440 same day, both long path.

N6AW: **9K2DX** (via N6TR) 7084 1511, **3V8AL** 14211 1511 on Nov 30; **9K2BE** (via G4GIR) 7002 1354 and 7082 1411 on Dec 2; **A71AD** 7082 1421 Dec 3; **UK2FAA** 7081 1403 Dec 4; **JT0GM** (via UK3DAU) 7077 1316 Dec 5; **OZ3PZ** 7082 1454 Dec 10; **7P8CR** 14211 1635 Dec 12; **OK2BFN** 7079 1502 Dec 14; **UK2PRC** 7081 1436 and **A4XIJ** 7004 1455 on Dec 17; **ZD8AR** 7005 0108 Dec 18; **UF6FDR** 7079 1458 Dec 27; **9N38** 7007 1333, **UC2SLO** 7089 1415 Dec 29; **JY9RC** 7082 1447 Dec 30; **6T1YP** 28567 1625 Jan 2.

W6BWG: **Z21GO** 28567 1926 Nov 19; **UK2FAA** 14224 1634 Dec 4; **A71AD** 14224 1743 Dec 11; **UK2OAA** 14224 1701 Dec 14; **9X5PP** 21291 1851, **7X2LS** 21291 1853 Dec 15; **J88AM** (via N4FJL) 21355 1919, **CN8CO** 21355 1924 Dec 29.

W6PN: **7P8CR** (Box 212, Maseru) 14217 1605, **ED9ITH** (Chafarinas Island) 21294 1649 Dec 12; **EA8ZO** 14216 2315, **VS6CT** 14216 2342 Dec 13; **4S7EA** 14205 0003, **3D6AE** 14279 1530, **3D6BJ** (TTY) 14075.03 1620 Dec 14; **TL8ER** 14025 1610, **XZ9A** 14258 1627, **A6XJA** (SP) 14201 1640, **A4XGY** 14215 1647, **A4XJV** 14215 1647, **EK9D/0** 14228 1700, all on Dec 15; **A71AD** (LP) 14213 1620 Dec 16; **UG6FGD** 14220 1525, **DU7RLC** 14216 1600, **VU2LV** (SP) 14203 1615, **VU2PP** (SP) 14203 1619, all Dec 17; **YB0AV** 14210 1613 Dec 18; **Z24JW** 14200 1555 Dec 20; **A4XJV** 14219 1608, **JY9RC** 14212 1613, **3B8DA/3B9** 14234 1626, all Dec 21.

Clipperton Award

This year the Clipperton Award will be handed out at Visalia, April 22-24.

If you think you qualify, bring your cards to the January 13 meeting and show them to a club officer.

The award is given in recognition of achievement as a "rookie DXer." Here is a summary of the rules as they appear in the by-laws:

- Confirmed DX contacts shall count for 12 months from working the first DX country in the beginning membership year.
- The entrant having the most confirmed countries for the one-year period shall be declared the winner.

Visalia April 22-24

By Norman Brooks, K6FO
NCDXC

Make plans now to rub shoulders with big gun and little pistol DXers at the 34th annual International DX Convention. This joint effort of the Northern California and Southern California DX Clubs will take place at the Visalia Holiday Inn Hotel on Friday, Saturday and Sunday April 22-24.

Convention general chairman Bill Zachman, W6TPH, promises the 1983 affair will be the greatest ever. The three days will feature DXpedition reports, technical presentations, awards, prizes, contests, dining and hospitality room congeniality. Slides, movies and videotapes will abound. Open forums will give everyone an opportunity to speak his or her mind about DXing and contesting.

Program co-chairmen Jay and Jan O'Brien, W6GO and K6HHD, are at work lining up big DX names to make presentations. They also promise some innovations. One of these: a major effort will be made to avoid two programs running at the same time. Thus, you'll be able to attend *all* the sessions of interest to you.

Many overseas visitors are expected to attend. This is your opportunity to meet your DX friends in person.

For further information, write Northern California DX Club, P.O. Box 608, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Knights of Malta

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forces with the Knights Templars and the Teutonic Knights in an attempt to hold the Holy Land.

Medieval custom was that the knights be given land and donations. Their recruits came only from noble houses. By the time they retreated from Acre (in 1291—the final battle of the Crusades in the Holy Land) to Cyprus, they had extensive holdings.

In Cyprus they became seafarers, their stated intention being to suppress the Muslims in the Mediterranean. They conquered Rhodes in 1310 to be utilized as a base from which to fight the Muslims. In taking the island, they achieved the status of a nation.

They became known as the Knights of Rhodes, and for more than 200 years were one of the great naval powers of the Mediterranean. Four times they managed to drive off Muslim fleets trying to besiege Rhodes. But the fifth time—Christmas Eve of 1522, following a six-month onslaught by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, who had 250 ships and 200,000 men—they were forced to surrender.

For eight years the Knights wandered through Southern Europe. An opportunity presented itself, however, and they were able to take Malta, a position that would allow them to keep the Ottoman Empire out of the western Mediterranean. For the first time, they were called the *Knights of Malta*.

Their supremacy on the Mediterranean lasted 268 years more, during which time there was increasing recognition of their hospitaller work, serving, as they termed it, "our lords the sick." They established the Sacred Infirmary of Malta in 1532. With 11 wards, it housed 500 patients, and meals were served on silver.

Malta fell to Napoleon in 1798. He took nearly everything from the Knights but the Condotti Palace in Rome, a renaissance structure that had been willed to them years earlier. It was there they settled, at the Palazzo Malta, now the world's smallest sovereign nation.

Today, the knights are widely scattered. The majority of them are sufficiently wealthy to allow the time and expense required for executing good works. About 42 per cent come from noble families. Most are laymen. However, the first class of the order, the Knights of Justice, and the Professed Conventual Chaplains are religious. From them comes the leadership, the grand master, who's elected for life. The present Grand Master is Brother Angelo de Mojama di Cologna. He ranks with a cardinal and is recognized as a sovereign chief of state by 41 other states.

Of the 10,000 religious and lay members worldwide, some 1,000 are American. The order includes about 300 women too. Joining is said to be difficult, the screening process extremely stringent.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta's eight-pointed Maltese cross flies over several extra-territorial areas in Rome, including the Villa Magistrale on Aventino Hill. This is the 1A0KM location and where, years ago, your reporter stood at the great main gate like countless other tourists and looked through its keyhole at a perfectly framed St. Peter's Square and Basilica.

Pomp and ceremony, an 850-year tradition for the scarlet-uniformed knights, seldom is seen these days. Worldwide assistance in the hospitaller, charitable and social fields now is the prime preoccupation—not pageantry and titles. The order operates or supports numerous health clinics, leprosariums and hospitals (in Los Angeles, the free clinic at St. Vincent's Hospital). Says Monsignor Antonio Jannone, the Knights of Malta press officer: "We are 20th-Century crusaders."

—W6YQ

DX news highlights

Continued from page 1

FB8ZQ on 14009 at 1515...**FB8XAB** on 14022 around 1645...**FB8WI** on 14011 at 1641.

BY8AA 21061 0130, 21048 0053, 14053 0110...**SU1EE** (for real?) 7002 0445.

W6KG/A4 on 14023 at 1650 and 7014 at 1430 (YASME)...**F6DZD/FH8** 14002 1525 with cards to home call...**D44BC** 3788 0700... **EP2TY** 14213 1550...**YI1BGD** 14212 1530...

LU3ZI Shetlands DXpedition Jan 15-Feb 15 with cards to GACW...**CE3EVG/CE0Z** 14218 0435 (Box 3016, Valparaiso)... **VP8AOB** Orkneys 14032 0300 (K0JW)...

PY0TA could show again around the middle of this month or next when the supply boat goes over, but be advised of a PY-slim signing that call. If you worked them Dec 17-18 send SSB cards to PY1VOY, CW cards to PY1BVY.

OH2BH writes that only one W6 was worked on five bands by **OH0W**: "Guess who—yes, AA6AA!" A few rough scores are listed below.

CQWW CW

OH0W *(multi-multi)* 10,200 Qs/15 meg; **9Y4VT by N6AA** *(single op-multiband)* 6.75 meg; **CN8CX by K6NA** *(sing-multi; cards to K4CEB)* 4400 Qs/6.1 meg; **8P6J by N6TJ** *(sing-multi)* 5100 Qs/114 Z/287 C/4.85 meg; **9K2DX by N6NI** *(sing-multi)* 2300 Qs/98 Z/290 C/2.45 meg; **N6AR** *(sing-multi)* 760 Qs/125 Z/243 C/750K; **W6YA** *(21 MHz)* 675 Qs/35 Z/87 C/231K; **W6AM by N6AW** *(7 MHz)* 415 Qs/34 Z/74 C/130K; **N6RJ** *(7 MHz)* 350 Qs/37 Z/72 C/110K.

Help!

□ In the recent windstorms, Frank Iversen, WA6ZCQ, lost everything. He's not covered and, if that were not enough, his tower did damage next door. Frank could use a 20-meter yagi and a small tower, free or inexpensive.

□ Callbooks and handbooks, no older than 1980, are again requested by Alan, W6RCL, for shipment to VU. Last year's batch has arrived after six months at sea. Bring your books to the January meeting and Alan will pay the postage to India.

DXCC WAZ
SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

Published monthly by the Southern California DX Club.

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Send material for this bulletin to Mike Hudgens, W6YQ, 10103 Lynrose, Temple City, CA 91780.

Letters

The subband issue: a protest

Editor—

The November SCDXC *Bulletin* contains a report that shocked and disappointed me. It describes the contents of an official SCDXC proposal to the FCC for U.S. expansion into certain international voice subbands. The proposal is a strong request to "once and for all end the second-class status of U.S. radio amateurs by eliminating the ban on American use of large portions of the internationally accepted voice subbands." The areas of specific interest are 7075-7100 KHz and 14100-14200 KHz.

I would like to take strong exception to this so-called "modernization" proposal for two reasons: first, it was not made in the best interests of *DXers, especially* in the 40-meter proposal; and, second, an obviously controversial issue was decided and transmitted to FCC on behalf of SCDXC without discussion at general membership meetings.

The proposal contends that opposition to the 40-meter expansion was made on the basis of hardship to telegraphy operators. It does not address the *real* problem to *DXers*: QRM by and to U.S. amateurs trying to work SSB DX.

Anyone who has utilized 40 SSB for DXing knows that DX is generally weak and very vulnerable to QRM. Since our VE neighbors (unfortunately) now have access to this 7075-7100 segment where DX is found, we have already experienced problems. If you listened in the last CQWW you will recall how one or two VE stations often obliterated most of the available DX. Can you imagine what would happen if even a small handful of U.S. stations invaded this segment? I find it difficult to believe that any understanding DXer would propose something so ridiculous!

As far as 20 meters is concerned, the attitude of "let's get all we can" is wrong. As DXers, we should try to *encourage* DX activity, not discourage it. Overseas amateurs have already expressed concern over the possibility of such an invasion by the U.S. How do you think they are going to respond if it happens?

Are you willing to give up the ability to split frequency with DX? (Remember, all those morons you hear operating out of the American phone band are *illegal*). Split frequency operation *remains* as one of the most useful, efficient ways to avoid QRM, whether it be during normal QSOs or by a DXpedition. Do we want to throw this away? Shouldn't at least 50 KHz be preserved as a subband?

The SCDXC proposal refers to the relatively small number of U.S. hams who would populate these subbands (compared to a greater number of foreign hams). Of what value are such statistics? Compared to most of the rest of the world, we have a very large population of active, aggressive amateurs with big power and big antennas, a capability which represents a tremendous potential to generate QRM. No wonder overseas amateurs are concerned! *We* should be too, if we want to continue any split frequency operation.

The last part of the SCDXC proposal compares U.S. hams to those in JA. It says that JAs have the subbands with an orderly and forward-looking amateur service; why can't we?

Unfortunately, we U.S. amateurs must be contrasted with JA amateurs, not compared to them. The Japanese are in another league. In spite of their great numbers, they maintain a polite, courteous approach. You won't hear them yelling at each other, or acting as policemen. They are generally much better listeners in pileups. They honor requests of DX trying to control pileups. As everyone knows, we have overwhelming problems in *all* of these areas in the U.S., and that is why we cannot be expected to have an "orderly, forward-looking amateur service" in any subband.

Finally, what concerns me nearly as much as the proposal itself is that it takes a strong stand on very controversial issues without the benefit of appropriate debate or discussion at general membership meetings. Members should have been able to exchange ideas on this subject before any document was sent to FCC.

The subband issue is major and it is ongoing. We should all give this situation careful consideration and not allow greed for more spectrum space to overcome our good judgment.

Jim McCook, W6YA

W6 bureau needs new blood

Editor—

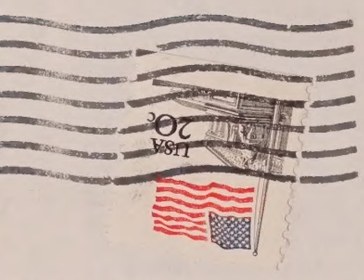
It appears that the 6th District incoming QSL bureau is suffering from severe problems, and the time has come to do something.

As I understand the situation, many of the individuals sorting and distributing cards are doing a fine job, while others are not. For example, I get a bureau shipment about every six or seven months, and then only after writing and complaining. I know of at least one other active DXer with the same bureau handler with the same complaint, and others with service that is even worse.

Perhaps some of the people who do not have the time, energy or interest in handling cards should step down. Fresh blood is needed in the 6th District DX QSL Bureau.

Jim Spears, AB6R

JAY O'BRIEN W6GO
P.O. BOX 700
RIO LINDA, CA 95673



Michael Hudgens, W6YQ
10103 Lynrose Street
Temple City, CA 91780

Contest calendar

January 8-9 . . . . . **73 40 & 80 M. Phone**
January 15-16 . . . . . **73 160-M. Phone**
January 28-30 . . . . **CQ WW 160-M. CW**
February 5-6 . . . . **RSGB 7-MHz Phone**
February 12-13 . . . . . **Dutch PACC**
February 13 . . . . . **No. Amer. SSB Sprint**
February 19-20 . . . . . **ARRL DX CW**
February 25-27 . . . . **CQ WW 160 Phone**
March 5-6 . . . . . **ARRL DX Phone**
March 26-27 . . . . **CQ WW WPX Phone**

—**W1WY**

The 1983 slate

At the upcoming meeting on January 13, the annual nomination and election of club officers will be held.

Following is the board's proposed slate:

For president: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF; vice president: Joe Locascio, K5KT; secretary: Jan Perkins, N6AW.

Don Moses, W6UY; Bob Cobb, W6CN; and Mike Hudgens, W6YQ, have offered to serve another year as treasurer, membership chairman and bulletin editor, respectively.

Two director slots are open, and the board puts forward for consideration these six: Tex Myers, N6AHV; Paul Lawrence, N6DHV; Tom Orr, W6HT; Don Bostrom, N6IC; Rick Samoian, WB6OKK; and Jim Rafferty, N6RJ.

Please plan to attend. One vote can be the deciding factor.

State of the bands

Ten-meter openings are usually early and brief: Europe and North Africa 15-17z, Central and South Africa 15-19z, South America until their sunset at 22z. From 01-02z, Zones 21 and 22 can be heard, but the openings might be as short as ten minutes. SE Asia peaks about the same time.

Fifteen meters is similar to ten, but the European openings are more frequent and last about an hour longer. Africa can be heard until our sunset, and JAs from 22-02z.

The prime time of twenty meters is 1430-1630 LP, with the Mideast peaking at 15z. SE Asia is best at the same time. Africa SP is good 00-03z.

Forty is in its heyday. Zones 21 and 22 are heard 13-15z. Mideast/Europe LP 1415-1515 with Southern Europe holding until 16z. SE Asia 12-16z and JAs from 9z. Europe SP is good 23-02z and 05-07z. Zone 22 appears over the South America grey line 01-0115z. South America 23z to their sunrise at 11z.

Eighty LP to Europe and the Mideast has been good 1415-1515z. The peak varies almost daily with the sunrise. Zones 21 and 22, along with the Indian Ocean about the same time. Zone 23 has been worked about 13z. Africans are SP 03-0730z.

—**N6AW**

(Tnx for comments from AA6AA)

Classified

CUSTOMIZED QSLs by W6BA, $19.75 for 1000 plus shipping. No standard forms. We try to print what you want. Black ink on color 110-pound stock. Write for samples. Bill Adams, W6BA; Star Route 2, 29 Palms, CA 92277.

WANTED: Swan SWR bridge—model SWR 1A or equivalent. Jan, N6AW (213) 306-3847.

HW101 & HP-23 PS: $275. Linda (213) 802-4138.

SB220 w/10 meters: $500. Chuck, N6FX (714) 593-1861.

0-20KW thru-line type wattmeter: $75; radio compass 5-inch diameter: $15; 3-inch diameter, $10; selsyn (used with prop pitch): $5; 3-element 10-meter beam: $30; tube-type signal generator: $20. Nick, WB6DXU (213) 842-5983.

SWAN 102BX tcvr w/ps, DenTron 2000T ant tuner, Swan 1040V trap vertical, Shure 444, Brown key, AEA CK-1 keyer: $1000 all. Tom, K5DY (213) 967-9965.

ICOM IC-255A 2-m FM tcvr w/Astron RS-12A ps: $250. Tom, K5DY (213) 967-9965.

N4XX propagation

A, H, L, B, D—Above, High, Low, Below, Disturbed

7	**H**	14	**B/D**	21	**B***	28	**A**	2	**L/B**
8	**H**	15	**B/D**	22	**L**	29	**H**	3	**L**
9	**A**	16	**L**	23	**L**	30	**A**	4	**H**
10	**A**	17	**B**	24	**L**	31	**H**	5	**D**
11	**H**	18	**D**	25	**L**	1	**A**	6	**H**
12	**H**	19	**D**	26	**H**				
13	**B/D**	20	**L**	27	**A**				

*Begins 54-day forecast